

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJ: CYPRUS: PRESS REACTION FEBRUARY 17-18

1. SUMMARY: ATHENS NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE TO GIVE PRIORITY COVERAGE TO LATEST DEVELOPMENTS SURROUNDING CYPRUS SITUATION. PRESS HIGHLIGHTED CLERIDES ARRIVAL STATEMENT IN NEW YORK, TASS STATEMENT WHICH WAS DELIVERED REPORTEDLY BY RUSSIAN CHARGE TO FM BITSIOS, MAKARIOS MOST RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND DENKTASH INTERVIEW IN KATHIMERINI. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, PASOK, TOLD NEWSMEN GREECE SHOULD FOLLOW INDEPENDENT POLICY AND GOG "OFFICIAL CIRCLES" ISSUED REBUTTAL TO TURKISH FONMIN ESENBEL'S REMARK IN NEWSWEEK THAT GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEADLOCK IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. NEWSPAPERS ANNOUNCED UNSYG WALDHEIM ARRIVAL IN ATHENS FEBRUARY 19. END SUMMARY.

2. ATHENS PRESS FEBRUARY 17-18 FEATURED CYPRUS PORTION OF GENEVA COMMUNIQUE WHICH MOST PAPERS INTERPRETED TO MEAN CONCURRENCE OF US/SOVIET VIEWS ON CYPRUS. TASS STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 17 RECEIVED MAJOR PLAY INCLUDING ITS REPORTED

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DELIVERY TO GREEK FM BITSIOS BY RUSSIAN CHARGE. KATHIMERINI

CARRIED EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DENKTASH WHICH BROKE NO NEW GROUND EXCEPT DENKTASH'S FAULTING MAKARIOS' DUAL LEADERSHIP ROLES, CHURCH AND STATE, WHICH TRANSFORMED ISLAND INTO A CHRISTIAN AND GREEK STATE WHICH WAS REAL BASIS OF PROBLEM. DENKTASH RECONFIRMED HIS BELIEF IN THE UTILITY OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS BUT ADDED THAT HE IS WAITING FOR CLERIDES WHO IS NOW IN NEW YORK.

3. ANDREAS PAPANDREOU IN MEETING WITH NEWSPAPER EDITORS FEBRUARY 17 SAID THAT SOVIET UNION CANNOT PLAY THE ROLE GREECE WOULD LIKE IT TO PLAY IN CYPRUS QUESTION AS LONG AS USSR HAD NO GUARANTEE THAT A REALLY INDEPENDENT POLICY IS BEING PURSUED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. PAPANDREOU URGED THE GOG TO BE MORE CONVINCING THAT IT FOLLOWS AN INDEPENDENT POLICY VIS-A-VIS NATO AND U.S. BASES. HE CONCLUDED THAT FOR GREEK GOVERNMENT TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF ARABS, AND NON-ALIGNED AND USSR, ITS POLICY MUST BECOME CREDIBLE... "EITHER YOU FOLLOW KISSINGER, WHO WILL LEAD YOU WHERE HE LIKES, OR YOU WILL FOLLOW A REALLY INDEPENDENT POLICY AND INTERNATIONALIZE THE PROBLEM."

4. LATER IN DAY GOG ISSUED STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO "FOREIGN MINISTRY CIRCLES" DENYING TURKISH FM ESENBEL'S REMARK TO NEWSWEEK THAT DEADLOCK IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WAS RESULT OF HARDENING OF GREEK ATTITUDES IN VIEW OF HALTING OF U.S. MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. GREEK GOVERNMENT STATEMENT CHARACTERIZED TURKISH CYPRIOT ATTITUDE AS NEGATIVE THROUGHOUT THE TALKS ON POLITICAL SETTLEMENT AND ADDED THAT TURKISH FILIBUSTERING FORCED GREEK CYPRIOT SIDE TO SUBMIT, WITH FULL AGREEMENT OF GOG, A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR SOLUTION OF PROBLEM. ACCORDING TO GOG RELEASE DENKTASH REPLIED BY PROCLAIMING A "FEDERAL TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE," WHICH WAS PART OF TURKISH CYPRIOT POLICY OF CREATING FAITS ACCOMPLI. GOG STATEMENT ADDED THAT ALLEGED OFFER OF DENKTASH FOR RETURN OF 8,000 AND SUBSEQUENTLY ANOTHER 5,000 GREEK CYPRIOT REFUGEES WAS MISLEADING SINCE 8,000 WERE FROM VILLAGE OF ATHIENOU NEVER CAPTURED BY TURKS THUS TURKISH "GESTURE" CONCERNED RETURN OF ONLY 5,000 REFUGEES OUT OF 200,000. STATEMENT POINTED OUT THAT DENKTASH HAD REJECTED PROPOSAL BY CLERIDES THAT NICOSIA

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AIRPORT BE PLACED UNDER UN CONTROL, AND WITH COMPLETE TURKISH CONTROL OF FAMAGUSTA, ALL TURKISH GESTURES WERE MEANINGLESS.

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTED HEAVILY EXPECTED ARRIVAL IN ATHENS OF UNSYG WALDHEIM ON FEBRUARY 19, FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO ANKARA. DESPITE LATE AFTERNOON ARRIVAL HE IS REPORTEDLY SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH HIGH LEVEL GREEK MINISTERS BEFORE

PROCEEDING ON TO NEW YORK ON FEBRUARY 20.

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